

THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO.: 2017-292-WS

In the Matter of)	
)	
Application of Carolina Water Service,)	DIRECT TESTIMONY
Inc. for an Adjustment of Rates and)	OF
Charges and Modifications to Certain)	DAVID HUGHES
Terms and Conditions for the Provision of)	
Water and Sewer Service)	

Q: PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, EMPLOYER, TITLE AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.

A: My name is David Hughes. For the last 23 Years, I have served as the Supervisor with the York County Water/Sewer Division of Public Works in York South Carolina. My business address is 220 Public Works Road, York, SC.

Q: WHAT ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS SUPERVISOR?

A: Included in my responsibilities as the County W-S Supervisor are the following duties:

- Plan and manage the installation, maintenance, and repair of water and sewer systems, ensuring compliance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.
- Prepare and monitor the division budget; ensures effective and efficient use of budgeted funds, personnel, materials, facilities, and time.
- Evaluate County water/sewer systems and service needs, and formulate plans to meet those needs in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Work with County engineers and outside engineering firms in the design and implementation of system improvements.
- Administer and ensure compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act regulations, including those pertaining to backflow prevention, lead and copper levels, volatile organic contaminants, disinfection by-products, and unregulated contaminant testing.

1 • Inspect county projects in progress and at completion inspect for compliance with applicable
2 policies, procedures, laws, regulations, contracts, permits, and standards of quality and safety.

3
4 • Supervise water/sewer billing functions; assist Billing Clerk with customer request and
5 complaints; resolves billing disputes.
6

7 **Q: WHAT IS YOUR EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND IN THE WATER AND SEWER**
8 **INDUSTRY?**
9

10 **A:** I earned a State Diploma in Engineering Graphics from York Technical College 1981 and an
11 Associate's Degree in Civil Engineering Technology from York Technical College 1984. I hold Certificates
12 awarded for Water Distribution Operator, Level A, from the South Carolina Environmental Certification
13 Board (2000); and for Wastewater Collection System Operator, Class A from the South Carolina
14 American Water Works Association & Water Environment Association (2002). For ten years, I worked as
15 a Civil Engineering Technician for Water/Sewer Design and Construction Administration with Williams
16 Engineering and with Campco Engineering, both in Rock Hill, South Carolina. For the last 23 Years, I have
17 served as the Supervisor with the York County Water/Sewer Division of Public Works in York South
18 Carolina. I have been a member of the South Carolina section of the American Water Works Association
19 and the South Carolina Rural Water Association (SCRWA) for thirty years and I served on the SCRWA
20 Board of Directors for twelve years.

21 **Q: WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?**

22 **A:** The purpose of my testimony is to support York County's position in the case before the
23 Commission regarding the proposed Utility System Improvement Rate ("USIR").

24 **Q: WHAT IS THE POSITION OF YORK COUNTY?**

25 **A:** The County is opposed to the USIR.

26 **Q: WHAT IS THE BASIS FOR THIS OPPOSITION?**

27 **A:** York County contends that approval of the USIR, essentially providing for an administration
28 approval of a flat rate increase, would eliminate a long standing public review process established in
29 South Carolina which affords a check, auditing, and vetting mechanism against proposed rate increases

1 to be passed along to the citizens of York County and the State. The public review process affords
2 citizen consumers the opportunity to advocate for their interests. A USIR would effectively eliminate
3 any advocacy opportunity. Lastly, York County contends that the USIR is a matter of first impression in
4 South Carolina which implicates a legislative component to be placed upon the Public Service
5 Commission as such authority is currently absent in our State Code and Regulations. It is for these
6 reasons that York County has taken a position in opposition to the USIR.

7 **Q: IN YOUR OPINION, DOES THE DENIAL OF A USIR AFFECT THE PROVISION OF SERVICES TO CWS**
8 **CUSTOMERS?**

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10 **A:** In my opinion, the denial of a USIR should have no impact upon the provision of services. I
11 understand CWS to content that improving service reliability, improving and protecting water quality,
12 improving system resiliency, and creating rate stability are all specified reasons to support the granting
13 of the USIR request. However, viewed separate and distinct from the USIR, the expressed reasons are
14 part and parcel of quality customer service which as a water and sewer service provider, York County
15 strive to promote in its operations. Therefore, accepting the premise that good business practices
16 include service reliability, water quality and system resiliency, CWS should be promoting these aspects
17 of its service regardless of a USIR. Therefore, for the reasons expressed in my answer to the previous
18 question, the denial of a USIR should not affect the provision of services to CWS customers for the
19 reasons expresses in support should already be part of its corporate business model.